

In the claims:

All of the claims standing for examination are reproduced below with appropriate status indication.

1-28. (Canceled).

29. (Currently amended) A wireless database management system, comprising:

a first server providing a first virtual private network (VPN) management software operating on at least one server and providing Internet access to client-held wireless communication appliances, the VPN software limiting access to a subset of the wireless communication appliances that subscribe to the VPN; and

a second server providing a second VPN management software operating on at least one server with access to the Internet and providing access to one or more databases associated with the subscribing subset of wireless communication devices;

wherein operation of the first and second VPN management software creates a VPN tunnel in the Internet restricted to data addressed to or from the subscribing subset of wireless communication appliances.

30. (Currently amended) The wireless database management system of claim 29 wherein the wireless communication appliances are one of a personal digital assistant (PDA), cell phone, two-way pager or other ~~similar~~ mobile, hand-held communication device.

31. (Currently amended) The wireless database management system of claim 29 wherein the first virtual private network (VPN) management software operating on ~~at least one~~ the first server providing Internet access to client-held wireless communication appliances is a VPN-controlled wireless proxy server securing data transferred between the client-held wireless communication appliances and the Internet.

32. (Previously presented) The wireless database management system of claim 29, wherein the data transfers between the server providing Internet access to client-held wireless communication appliances are encrypted with a public key method.

33. (Currently amended) The wireless database management system of claim 29, wherein the data transfers between the second server with access to the Internet and providing access to one or more databases associated with the subscribing subset of wireless communication devices are encrypted with a private key method.

34. (Previously presented) The wireless database management system of claim 29, wherein users of the wireless communication appliances are authenticated before allowing access to the databases.

35. (Currently amended) The wireless database management system of claim 29, wherein software is implemented on the second server with access to the Internet and providing access to one or more databases sets an adjustable timeout for connections between the wireless communication appliances and the server.

36. (Currently amended) The wireless database management system of claim 35, wherein the second server identifies a session between the wireless communication appliances and the second server with a session identification phrase, and storing the session identification phrase in memory.

37. (Currently amended) The wireless database management system of claim 29, wherein a firewall is implemented between the Internet and the second server connected to the databases, thereby limiting access to IP addresses of the wireless communication devices.

38. (Currently amended) The wireless database management system of claim 37, wherein a second firewall is implemented between the second server and the databases.

39. (Currently amended) A method for securing data transfers in a wireless database management system, comprising steps of:

- a) providing first server including a virtual private network (VPN) ~~management software operating on at least one server~~ and providing Internet access to client-held wireless communication appliances, the VPN ~~software~~ limiting access to a subset of the wireless communication appliances that subscribe to the VPN; and
- b) providing a second server including a VPN ~~management software operating on at least one server~~ with access to the Internet and providing access to one or more databases associated with the subscribing subset of wireless communication devices; and
- c) operating the first and second server VPNs ~~management software creating to create a~~ VPN tunnel in the Internet restricted to data addressed to or from the subscribing subset of wireless communication appliances.

40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 39, wherein the wireless communication appliances are one of a personal digital assistant (PDA), cell phone, two-way pager or other similar device.

41. (Currently amended) The method of claim 39 wherein in step a), the ~~first virtual private network (VPN) management software operating on at least one~~ first server providing Internet access to client-held wireless communication appliances is a VPN-controlled wireless proxy server securing data transferred between the client-held wireless communication appliances and the Internet.

42. (Currently amended) The method of claim 39 wherein in step a) the data transfers between the first server providing Internet access to client-held wireless communication appliances are encrypted with a public key method.

43. (Currently amended) The method of claim 39 wherein in step b), the data transfers

between the second server with access to the Internet and providing access to one or more databases associated with the subscribing subset of wireless communication devices are encrypted with a private key method.

44. (Previously presented) The method of claim 39, further providing a step of authenticating users of the wireless communication appliances before allowing access to the databases.

45. (Currently amended) The method of claim 39 wherein in step b) an adjustable timeout is provided for connections between the wireless communication appliances and the second server.

46. (Currently amended) The method of claim 39, further providing a step for identifying a session between the first server and the wireless communication appliances of step a) with a session identification phrase, and storing the session identification phrase in memory.

47. (Currently amended) The method of claim 39 wherein in step b) a firewall is provided between the Internet and the second server connected to the databases, thereby limiting access to IP addresses of the wireless communication devices.

48. (Currently amended) The method of claim 47 wherein a second firewall is implemented between the second server and the databases.